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Toyota Clipsheet for September 27, 2007

9/25 Toyota close: 115.30 (+0.65)

Yen/Dollar: 114.73 (+0.01)

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Top Stories

Toyota recalls floor mats that jam gas pedals

Justin Hyde

Detroit Free Press 09/27/07

Toyota Motor Co. will recall floor mats from 55,000 Camry and Lexus ES 350 models due to complaints of unintended acceleration caused by the mats sticking underneath the accelerator pedal, federal safety officials and the automaker said Wednesday.

Toyota recalls mats that may interfere - The Detroit News 09/27/07

Toyota to recall floor mats for crash risk - CNNmoney 09/26/07

Toyota to recall Lexus, Camry mats - Los Angeles Times 09/27/07

Prius, Avalon owners: don't stack your floor mats! - AutoBlog.com 09/26/07

Wipe your feet: Toyota recalls 55,000 floor mats - AutoBlog.com 09/26/07

Toyota Recalls 2007-'08 Camry and Lexus ES 350 with All-Weather Floor Mats - Edmunds.com 09/26/07

Toyota, Nissan recall mats, fuel tubes - CNNmoney 09/26/07

Toyota to recall floor mats in 2007 Lexus, Camrys - Reuters News 09/26/07

Honda, Toyota lead mpg race

Ken Thomas / Associated Press

The Detroit News 09/27/07

Honda and Toyota offered U.S. consumers the highest average fuel efficiency of 2007 model year vehicles, the government reported Wednesday... The average fuel economy for 2007 vehicles was 20.2 miles per gallon, the same as 2006 vehicles, the Environmental Protection Agency said in an annual report that used new testing procedures. For individual vehicles, the test results are included on window stickers in dealer lots... General Motors Corp. led domestic automakers with 19.4 mpg, followed by Ford Motor Co. with 18.7 mpg. For the third straight year, Ford's Escape hybrid had the highest fuel efficiency of any light truck with 29.7 mpg.

Toyota, Honda See Output Gains in August

Kozo Mizoguchi

Associated Press Newswires 09/27/07

Most major Japanese automakers, including Toyota and Honda, reported Thursday an increase in their auto production in August, bouncing back from the previous month's decline caused by earthquake damage at a key supplier... Global production at Toyota Motor Corp., Honda Motor Co. and Nissan Motor Co. and Mitsubishi Motors Corp. rose last month, while Mazda Motor Corp. posted a decline.

Japan's top three automakers boost domestic output in August - MarketWatch 09/27/07

Toyota, Honda Raise Output to Meet Overseas Demand (Update2) - Bloomberg 09/27/07

GM Labor Deal Ushers In New Era for Auto Industry

Joseph B. White, John D. Stoll, Jeffrey McCracken

The Wall Street Journal 09/27/07

The deal struck at 3:05 a.m. yesterday between General Motors Corp. and the United Auto Workers union marks the dawn of an uncertain new era for the American auto industry and its unionized work force... The contract, which covers about 74,000 U.S. auto workers, restructures GM's obligations to cover health care for UAW retirees.

GM Pact Still Faces UAW Member Vote - The Wall Street Journal 09/27/07

After GM's Labor Pact, It's Time to Kick the Tires - The Wall Street Journal 09/27/07

Lazard's Man at UAW Taps Into a Veteran Of Auto Clashes -- Dad - The Wall Street Journal 09/27/07

What Might GM Trust Fund Mean for Workers Elsewhere? - The Wall Street Journal 09/27/07

A Turning Point for Health Care - The Wall Street Journal 09/27/07

Off the Picket Line at G.M., Relieved but Wary - New York Times 09/27/07

With U.A.W. Accord, G.M. Looks to a New Detroit - New York Times 09/27/07

GM and UAW both claim contract victory - Financial Times 09/27/07

GM workers call off strike after landmark healthcare agreement - Financial Times 09/27/07

GM deals blow to healthcare reform hopes - Financial Times 09/27/07

Lex: GM's labour deal - Financial Times 09/27/07

GM-UAW strike 'landmark deal' - USA Today 09/27/07

Health care issues ahead - USA Today 09/27/07

Workers glad to go back on job, but want to know details - USA Today 09/27/07

The highlights - USA Today 09/27/07

Investors celebrate GM-UAW agreement - USA Today 09/27/07

Where Saturn Started, Workers Await a Revival - Washington Post 09/27/07

GM, Union Agree on Contract to End Strike - Washington Post 09/27/07

How bargainers, analysts see it - Detroit Free Press 09/27/07

VEBA proved a key sticking point and a key to the deal - Detroit Free Press 09/27/07

Key players - Detroit Free Press 09/27/07

Deal gives GM cash to build better cars - Detroit Free Press 09/27/07

Health care trust, wages are key - Detroit Free Press 09/27/07

Editorial: Build success from UAW pact - Detroit Free Press 09/27/07

Deal could cost Michigan millions in Medicaid funding - Detroit Free Press 09/27/07

Pact may hold true security for UAW - Detroit Free Press 09/27/07

Suppliers call back laid-off workers - Detroit Free Press 09/27/07

A new U.S. auto industry - Detroit Free Press 09/27/07

Union enlists Detroit 3 for health care reform - Detroit Free Press 09/27/07

UAW workers rejoice, worry - Detroit Free Press 09/27/07

Chrysler, Ford deals may mirror GM accord - Detroit Free Press 09/27/07

Voices: Leaders, analysts, workers talk about the settlement - Detroit Free Press 09/27/07

Deal seals Gettelfinger's legacy - Detroit Free Press 09/27/07

Strike at GM ends with tentative healthcare deal - Los Angeles Times 09/27/07

For GM, deal is a 'game changer' - The Globe and Mail (Canada) 09/27/07

End of UAW strike: What it means - Cleveland Plain Dealer 09/27/07

Auto workers make concessions to keep jobs in U.S. - Christian Science Monitor 09/27/07

GM, UAW Strike a Deal - AutoObserver 09/26/07

Union workers make deal with GM - Charleston Daily Mail 09/26/07

GM signs historic deal with unions to resolve strike action - The Independent (UK) 09/27/07

GM, UAW back to work in new era for labor - Cleveland Plain Dealer 09/27/07

GM agreement is just a start - Milwaukee Journal Sentinel 09/27/07

Deal gives GM grip on costs - Chicago Tribune 09/27/07

Long-term health of UAW, GM tied to plan - Chicago Tribune 09/27/07

Wins for both sides - St. Louis Post-Dispatch 09/27/07

GM's \$nazzy New Model: Veba - New York Post 09/27/07

GM, UAW reach a deal - Washington Times 09/27/07

Opinions differ on effect in state of UAW contract - Birmingham News (Ala.) 09/27/07

GM's deal with UAW ends 2-day walkout - Louisville Courier-Journal 09/27/07

Editorial: New contract gives GM a chance at competing - The Detroit News 09/27/07

Historic deal shrinks gap - The Detroit News 09/27/07

Most call VEBA good deal for GM - The Detroit News 09/27/07

With health deal, UAW's clout, influence grow - The Detroit News 09/27/07

Health care plan a cost-cutting model - The Detroit News 09/27/07

Highlights of the deal - The Detroit News 09/27/07

GM pact may dent Medicaid - The Detroit News 09/27/07
 First relief, then questions among workers - The Detroit News 09/27/07
 Challenge moves to showroom - The Detroit News 09/27/07
 Up next: Ford and Chrysler - The Detroit News 09/27/07
 Auto stocks jump on agreement - The Detroit News 09/27/07
 Voices from Detroit to D.C. - The Detroit News 09/27/07
 GM deal 'a black day' for Canada's auto sector - The Globe and Mail (Canada) 09/27/07
 Editorial: Deal between GM, UAW could save auto industry - Denver Post 09/27/07
 Union health trusts may gain popularity - Minneapolis Star-Tribune 09/27/07
 Column: VEBA may take care of GM retirees - Toronto Star 09/27/07
 CAW to resist GM's deal - Toronto Star 09/27/07
 Strike Notebook: Analysts React to GM Deal: □ Devil in the Details □ - The Wall Street Journal Online 09/26/07
 GM Pact Still Faces UAW Member Vote - The Wall Street Journal Online 09/26/07
 GM, UAW Reach Tentative Agreement - The Wall Street Journal Online 09/26/07
 Deal ends GM strike - The Guardian (UK) 09/26/07
 Update 11: GM, UAW Reach Contract Accord, Ending 2-Day Strike - Bloomberg 09/26/07
 Update 1: UAW to Intensify Negotiations With Ford, Chrysler - Bloomberg 09/26/07
 GM workers back to work, facing questions - CNNmoney 09/26/07
 GM labor contract seen as something both sides can live with - Kansas City Star 09/26/07
 UAW reaches tentative deal with GM - Kansas City Star 09/26/07
 GM and Union Kiss and Make Up - Motley Fool 09/26/07
 Strike□s Over, Now GM□s Real Challenge Begins - Newsweek Online 09/26/07
 GM Ends Strike, Tries Health Plan - Time Online 09/26/07
 Back to work in Oshawa - Toronto Star 09/26/07
 Analysts see quick Ford, Chrysler deals with UAW - Reuters News 09/26/07
 Detroit newspapers report details of GM-UAW pact - Reuters News 09/26/07
 GM town relieved strike over, but not optimistic - Reuters News 09/26/07
 GM, UAW Win in Contract Deal - Associated Press Newswires 09/26/07
 Indiana GM workers ready for return to jobs - Associated Press Newswires 09/26/07
 Ford, Chrysler Can Work With UAW-GM Pact - Associated Press Newswires 09/26/07
 GM unloads retiree health costs, while UAW gets promises on jobs - Associated Press Newswires 09/26/07
 Ohio Auto Workers Comment on Strike - Associated Press Newswires 09/26/07
 Autoworkers in Janesville to return to work at GM plant - Associated Press Newswires 09/26/07
 First Impressions: Workers at auto suppliers get back to business - Detroit Free Press Online 09/26/07
 Gettelfinger indicates simultaneous Ford, Chrysler talks - Detroit Free Press Online 09/26/07
 Auto dealers hope for stronger GM - Detroit Free Press Online 09/26/07
 First blush: UAW, GM reach a deal - The Detroit News Online 09/26/07
 Deal helps GM narrow labor cost gap - The Detroit News Online 09/26/07
 More details emerge about terms of GM, UAW deal - The Detroit News Online 09/26/07

Toyota NA

Toyota Prius just keeps on going

Peter Valdes-Dapena

CNNmoney 09/25/07

There's something different about the Prius. Even now, the Prius is selling at a pace any car company would call hugely successful. Of all hybrid vehicles sold in America so far this year, more than half were Priuses and, thanks to increased production, Prius sales this year are up 76 percent so far this year... Among industry experts, the most often cited reason for the Prius's continued success is, simply, that it looks unlike any other car on the market. The Prius is instantly recognizable, even from a block away, as a hybrid car.

Toyota Boshoku America creates new jobs in Novi

Chris Jackett

Novi News (MI) 09/27/07-- <[http://hometownlife.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?](http://hometownlife.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070927/BUSINESS/709270684/1080/NEWS13)

AID=/20070927/BUSINESS/709270684/1080/NEWS13>

Toyota Boshoku America is spending \$10 million to expand its retail and development center in Novi... The interior auto parts supplier moved its headquarters to Erlanger, Ky. in April, but kept the procurement department in Novi. Bringing the research and development department over from the now defunct Farmington Hills center, the Novi center's expansion will span 75,000 square feet on West Park Drive near South Lake Drive... The center will open Oct. 18, employing an estimated 150 employees, after planned increases.

Toyota, Chrysler Top Motor Press Guild Annual Automotive Public Relations Survey

The Auto Channel 09/27/07-- <<http://www.theautochannel.com/news/2007/09/26/064254.html>>

The Motor Press Guild (MPG), America's largest professional automotive media association, announced yesterday that Toyota and Chrysler ranked as having the best overall performance in media relations, according to the organization's third annual Automotive Public Relations Survey. The survey, conducted by the Gronstedt Group of Denver, Colo., measures the media's satisfaction of seven criteria of the 20 major automobile manufacturers identified as being crucial to the success of their public relations programs. Journalists are asked to rate each manufacturer's press materials, Web site, ease and frequency of contact, level of a PR staff's knowledge, product launch programs and more.

Seminar set on doing business with Toyota

Clarion-Ledger (Jackson, MS) 09/26/07

Toyota and the Mississippi Development Authority will hold a "how to do business" seminar next week for indirect suppliers for Toyota's new \$1.3 billion Blue Springs facility scheduled to begin production by 2010.

VIDEO: Lexus IS-F doing things no other Lexus has done before

AutoBlog.com 09/26/07-- <<http://www.autoblog.com/2007/09/26/video-lexus-is-f-doing-things-no-other-lexus-has-done-before/>>

It appears, though, that as Lexus works to broaden its image with true sports car credentials, a lot of tires are going to meet their ends to make the point. The video above is seventy-eight seconds of tire-smoking drift and spin, courtesy of an IS-F at Laguna Seca. If this is what the IS-F does... well, then the LF-A should be a whole lotta fun. Follow the link to see the video.

Toyota Global

Toyota to stop selling Landcruiser to meet CO2 demands

just-auto.com 09/26/07

Toyota will take the Landcruiser off the market in Europe to help it meet its CO2 emissions requirements, a German magazine said... According to Auto Motor und Sport, the model will no longer be sold from January 2009... At the same time, Toyota plans to increase the price of the RAV4 in order to curtail demand. In this way Toyota will reduce its fleet average CO2 emissions to 140g per kilometre.

Lexus considers 1-series competitor

just-auto.com 09/26/07

Toyota is considering developing a new Lexus entry level model to compete with BMW's 1-series... Toyota's head of sales, Tokuchi Uranishi, told German consumer magazine Auto Motor und Sport, that "we can foresee a competitor to the BMW 1-Series".

Toyota/Subaru sports car details emerge, answers big questions

Damon Lavrinc

AutoBlog.com 09/26/07-- <<http://www.autoblog.com/2007/09/26/toyota-subaru-sports-car-details-emerge-answers-big-questions/>>

More details have come to the fore about the ongoing development of a lightweight sports car birthed from the union of Toyota and Subaru. Our friends over at 7Tune were kind enough to translate the finer points of an article in Daily Car, and the one burning question -- what platform the new coupe would be derived from -- has been answered... A test mule has been spotted running around Toyota's test track in Toyota City, built off a shortened Subaru Legacy chassis and powered by the firm's SOHC two-liter flat-four.

Toyota Introduces Mark X ZiO -- but Only for Japan

Edmunds.com 09/26/07-- <<http://www.edmunds.com/insideline/do/News/articleId=122788>>

Toyota on Wednesday rolled out a variant of its Mark X, the ZiO, that puts a premium on a flexible interior that can transform to suit a variety of needs. Toyota spokesman John McCandless said the vehicle is not intended for the U.S. market.

Toyota Product Reviews

2008 Toyota Land Cruiser

Bengt Halvorson

Car Connection 09/26/07

The Land Cruiser is, at last, completely redesigned for 2008, and Toyota hopes to nearly triple the number of Land Cruisers sold in the U.S. this year... Honestly, the new Land Cruiser doesn't look that much different on the outside than the version it replaces. The Land Cruiser sees its proportions and sheetmetal change slightly, but within, the redesign is much more dramatic than its appearance might indicate. With this new-generation Cruiser Toyota is

better differentiating it from its other SUVs by taking the technological high road.

Automotive Industry

Escape hybrid is top truck for fuel economy

Detroit Free Press 09/27/07

For the third straight year, Ford's Escape hybrid had the highest fuel efficiency of any light truck with 29.7 m.p.g., the government reported Wednesday... The average fuel economy for 2007 vehicles was 20.2 m.p.g., the same as 2006 vehicles, the Environmental Protection Agency said in an annual report that used new testing procedures... Toyota Motor Corp. posted a 22.8 m.p.g. average for its 2007 vehicles compared with 22.4 m.p.g. the previous year.

US: Average fuel economy unchanged in 2007

just-auto.com 09/27/07

The latest data from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) showed that average fuel economy for 2007 vehicles in the US remained unchanged from 2006 at 20.2 miles per (smaller US) gallon (mpg). That compared with 19.3 mpg in 2004.

Some workers to stay off job

Detroit Free Press 09/27/07

Ford Motor Co. is asking day-shift workers at its Dearborn Diversified Manufacturing and Dearborn Truck plants to report to work as normal this morning. However, it is asking those on the night shift to remain out temporarily, following a temporary shortage of an undisclosed part, which impacted production this week.

F-150 pickup to celebrate its 60th anniversary

Terry Box

Dallas Morning News 09/27/07

Crowds probably won't mob the anniversary edition of the Ford F-150 at the State Fair on Friday. With the pickup segment in a slump and more buyers drifting to cars and crossovers, the 60th anniversary of Ford's venerable truck isn't expected to attract massive public attention.

Birthday suits new F-series: Ford to unveil limited-edition pickups in Texas

Scott Burgess

The Detroit News 09/27/07

Ford Motor Co. will unwrap two limited-edition pickups today at the Texas State Fair to celebrate the F-Series' 60th birthday... Ford plans to build about 7,500 anniversary edition F-150s to mark the first F-1 pickup rolling off the assembly line in 1948... One in five Ford pickups is sold in Texas, Ford spokesman Wes Sherwood said... The 60th anniversary F-150 and Super Duty trucks will be available this winter.

Column: Ford fiddles Focus features

John Le Blanc

Toronto Star 09/26/07

When the automotive press witnessed the unveiling of the 2008 Ford Focus at the 2007 Detroit auto show, it didn't take long for the knives to be drawn on the Blue Oval's latest compact. According to Ford, it didn't take long for the buying public to complain either. Public feedback about the car's confusing looks forced Ford to make quick fixes to the exterior and interior trim, such as adding mesh to the lower grille, round instead of square fog lights, chrome in the interior -- before the 2008 models hit showrooms this November.

GM's Wagoner, After Union Accord, Needs to Sell Cars (Update1)

Greg Bensinger, Jeff Green

Bloomberg 09/27/07-- <[http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?](http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=conewsstory&refer=conews&tkr=F:US&sid=aLrZpoZsE9il)

[pid=conewsstory&refer=conews&tkr=F:US&sid=aLrZpoZsE9il](http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=conewsstory&refer=conews&tkr=F:US&sid=aLrZpoZsE9il)>

General Motors Corp. Chief Executive Officer Rick Wagoner has just about run out of things to fix or sell at the biggest U.S. automaker. Now he has to get more Americans to buy Chevrolet Malibus and Cadillac CTS sedans.

GM's Wagoner, With New Union Accord, Must 'Put Up or Shut Up' - Bloomberg 09/27/07

Chevrolet Volt: Where Will It Be Built?

Michelle Krebs

AutoObserver 09/26/07-- <<http://www.autoobserver.com/2007/09/chevrolet-volt-.html>>

Now that General Motors has said it is proceeding with production of the Chevrolet Volt, the question is where will it be built? The UAW gave GM the union-managed health-care fund the automaker wanted, in exchange for GM's commitment to build some future models in U.S. plants by UAW workers. Among those future vehicles was believed to be the Volt... No word yet on which plant won the prize.

Update 2: S&P may raise GM, Fitch drops review for rating cut

Reuters News 09/26/07

Standard & Poor's said on Wednesday it may raise its long-term ratings on General Motors Corp after GM and the United Auto Workers, its employees' main union, reached a tentative agreement that ended a two-day strike. General Motors has a "B" rating from S&P, or five levels below investment grade. S&P said it placed its long-term rating on watch with positive implications, from negative... GM's UAW members still need to approve the agreement, and ratification is expected to occur this weekend... S&P also said it may raise Ford Motor Co and Chrysler LLC's debt rating due to the GM-UAW accord... S&P rates Ford and Chrysler "B," five notches below investment grade.

Fitch Affirms GM Ratings on Labor Pact - Associated Press Newswires 09/26/07

Comment: Reality intrudes at General Motors

John Gapper

Financial Times 09/27/07

The motor industry is one of the last bastions of union power in the US private sector and, if GM had remained strike-bound, parts suppliers in Michigan and elsewhere would soon have been damaged. Detroit's big three are financially troubled and struggling to halt the advance of foreign competitors such as Toyota and Hyundai. The stakes for them were very high. Yet the strike was hard to take seriously.

Stock gets blip, state gets a boost

Susan Tompor

Detroit Free Press 09/27/07

A short walkout and a quick tentative settlement added up to a fast pop for GM stock -- and a swift save for Michigan's economy... On Wednesday, General Motors Corp. stock shot up 9.36% and closed at \$37.64 a share, up \$3.22 a share from Tuesday. The relief rally spread to other auto stocks... Ford Motor Co. closed at \$8.88 a share on Wednesday, up 54 cents or 6.47% from Tuesday.

GM news helps stocks rise - The Detroit News 09/27/07

Daimler is betting on diesel (and quasi-diesels)

Michael Vaughan

The Globe and Mail (Canada) 09/27/07

At the Frankfurt Motor Show earlier this month, the soon-to-be Daimler AG □ company shareholders will vote on changing the company name next week □ showed off its S-Class-sized Mercedes-Benz F700 concept car. ... Although it's a big, heavy car, Daimler chief executive officer Dieter Zetsche claims it consumes just 5.3 litres of gas per 100 km. A stronger green push is part of Daimler's strategy now that it has ditched Chrysler, which Zetsche ran for nearly five years.

Not reinventing the wheel -- just how it's powered

Royal Ford

Boston Globe 09/27/07

The scene at the fifth annual Alt-Wheels Alternative Transportation & Energy Festival tomorrow and Saturday will contrast sharply with the surrounding exhaust-filled streets and nearby Big Dig tunnels. The vehicles at the festival will be powered by natural gas, ethanol, propane, diesel fuel, electricity, and humans. Hybrid cars -- some gas/electric, others hydrogen/electric -- will be well represented, too.

Volkswagen struggling to win over American consumers

Don Hammonds

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette 09/27/07

Volkswagen, which announced earlier this month that it was moving its North American headquarters out of the Detroit area to suburban Washington, D.C., is facing serious challenges that a relocation alone cannot solve, analysts say... Jack Nerad, editorial director for Kelley Blue Book, said executives in Wolfsburg, Germany, "look out of their windows and see all the Volkswagens on the road and say all is well with the world. They don't understand that they are struggling mightily in the North American market, and that there are ways to do things better."

VW pushes new, clean diesel engines

Scott Burgess

The Detroit News 09/27/07

Volkswagen wants American drivers to know about diesels. Especially its clean diesels and how they can help the environment... To spread the word, VW begins its Diesolution Tour today, pulling an educational trailer around the country and setting up shop at environmental events. Inside, computer screens and displays showcase the benefits of diesels and ask visitors to take a "sustainability quiz" or measure their car's carbon footprint.

GM to build warehouses in Monroe

Mike Boyer

Cincinnati Enquirer 09/27/07

General Motors Corp. is planning a \$102 million investment to build two new warehouses here employing 185. GM said it wants to build a 400,000-square-foot and a 600,000-square-foot warehouse in the industrial park to distribute GM and Delco parts nationally and possibly overseas.

Nissan's Thompson Out; Ex-Ford's Poore In

Michelle Krebs

AutoObserver 09/26/07-- <<http://www.autoobserver.com/2007/09/nissans-thompso.html>>

Nissan's Jan Thompson, one of the auto industry's top female marketing executives, has resigned, under pressure. Ex-Ford marketer Ben Poore will replace her... Thompson, well known in the automotive marketing community having worked at Nissan, Mazda and ad agencies handling other major automotive accounts, had been head of both Nissan and Infiniti advertising and marketing. Her resignation comes as no surprise. Nor is Poore's departure from Ford a shocker.

Auto buzz

Michael Bettencourt

The Globe and Mail (Canada) 09/27/07

Analyst gets an earful about cross-border prices ... VW to offer hybrid options ... CDs heading out to pasture?

New products on the way

Jeremy Cato

The Globe and Mail (Canada) 09/27/07

In late August, Cadillac announced yet another step in the luxury brand's revival, naming Clay Dean as its new global design director. This newly created position indicates the importance of design as Cadillac prepares to launch several new products and product derivatives over the next few years.

Federal-Mogul resolves dispute

Detroit Free Press 09/27/07

Federal-Mogul Corp. has resolved a key dispute that threatened to delay its exit from bankruptcy, but the judge overseeing the case remains skeptical the company will meet its goal of wrapping up its six-year Chapter 11 reorganization by the end of the year.

Order from Alaska: Icop goes to Alaska

Kansas City Star 09/27/07

Icop Digital Inc., a Lenexa company that sells in-car video equipment to law enforcement agencies, on Wednesday said the Alaska State Troopers have added to an original order placed in December 2006. The agency has purchased Icop's Model 20/20 digital in-car video systems totaling \$572,000, the company said.

Safety & Legal & Government

Dingell drafts an energy proposal

David Shepardson

The Detroit News 09/27/07

U.S. Rep. John Dingell is proposing a wide-ranging plan to tax carbon dioxide emissions, raise gasoline and jet fuel taxes and eliminate tax deductions for large homes -- in an effort to dramatically reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Dingell unveils draft of gas tax - Detroit Free Press 09/27/07

Parity sparks suit over auto pricing

John Partridge, Greg Keenan

The Globe and Mail (Canada) 09/27/07

Consumer advocates are applauding the launch of a class-action lawsuit that is seeking more than \$2-billion in damages from major auto makers and dealers for allegedly conspiring to fix car prices 25- to 35-per-cent higher in Canada than in the United States.

Lawsuit filed over Canadian car prices - Detroit Free Press 09/27/07

Suit alleges collusion in our high car prices - Toronto Star 09/27/07

Automakers Hit With Canada Lawsuit - Associated Press Newswires 09/26/07

Automakers sued over car price disparity - Toronto Star 09/26/07

Ford, South Korea dig in heels over trade deal

Doug Palmer

Reuters News 09/26/07

South Korea has no intention of renegotiating a free trade deal with the United States to address U.S. auto industry complaints about the pact, a South Korean official said on Wednesday... "This is a good agreement for the U.S. and for Korea. Korea could not give any further concession on automobiles. There's no intention to change this agreement at all," said Seok-young Choi, economic affairs minister at the South Korean embassy... Choi spoke with reporters after a senior official at Ford Motor Co warned of a fight in the U.S. Congress that could damage the entire free trade agenda unless the pact is renegotiated to address an "ever-changing pattern" of South Korean barriers to keep out auto imports... "Korea is the most closed automotive market in the world among major developed nations, period. It is number 30 of the 30 top auto markets among the developed countries," Stephen Biegun, Ford's vice president for international governmental affairs, said during a panel discussion on the pact... While the United States imports about 700,000 cars from South Korea each year, it only exported 4,000 cars to that country last year. The main reasons are discriminatory taxes and regulations meant to keep out foreign cars, Biegun said.

Nissan recalls SUVs for possible corrosion

The Detroit News 09/27/07

Nissan Motor Co. said it was recalling nearly 420,000 sport utility vehicles because of possible corrosion in the tube where motorists pump gas. The recall involves Nissan Pathfinder and Infiniti QX4 SUVs from the 1997-2001 model years.

Toyota, Nissan issue safety recall in Pa. over mats, tubes - Associated Press Newswires 09/26/07

Victoria plans new 'lemon laws'

Ian Porter

The Age 09/27/07

The Victorian Government is planning to introduce the nation's first "lemon laws" to force car makers to replace persistently defective cars, but it will have to overcome the collective resistance of the automotive industry.

'Soot King' Plays Progressive Tune on Climate

John D. McKinnon

The Wall Street Journal 09/27/07

Samuel Bodman used to be known as the "Soot King," for the grimy substance, called carbon black, that his company made from incinerated oil sludge... Since then, Mr. Bodman, President Bush's energy secretary since early 2005, has emerged as one of the leaders of a band of administration progressives on climate change. The group, which also includes Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson, has been quietly pushing for the White House to take stronger action to combat global warming.

Bush gets set for climate-change meetings apart from U.N. - USA Today 09/27/07

Europe must trust America on climate change - Financial Times 09/27/07

Gore calls for carbon Marshall plan - Financial Times 09/27/07

White House Taking Unearned Credit for Emissions Cuts - Washington Post 09/27/07

Diplomats accuse Bush of attempting to derail UN climate conference - The Guardian (UK) 09/27/07

Opinion: Why we must harmonize the global climate-change response - The Globe and Mail (Canada) 09/27/07

Opinion: Big carbon cuts: scary, but doable

Stavros Dimas

Christian Science Monitor 09/27/07

This June, Group of Eight leaders confirmed the need for "substantial global reductions" in the man-made emissions of greenhouse gases that are dangerously warming the earth. By 2050 global emissions will have to be at least 50 percent below their level in 1990... To stabilize global warming at the "relatively safe" level of no more than two degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit) above the preindustrial temperature, worldwide emissions of greenhouse gases will need to stop increasing within 10 years.

James Lovelock's plan to pump ocean water to stop climate change

Roger Highfield

The Daily Telegraph (London) 09/27/07

A plan to save our world from extreme climate change by pumping cold water from the depths of the oceans is outlined today by James Lovelock, the scientist who inspired the greens.

Orders for durable goods sinking

Chicago Tribune 09/27/07

Demand for big-ticket manufactured goods plunged in August by the largest amount in seven months, with widespread weakness signaling a slowdown in the nation's industrial sector.

Blue Chips Add 99.50 Points In Push Back Toward Record

E.S. Browning

The Wall Street Journal 09/27/07

Settlement of the General Motors strike, tantalizing reports about Bear Stearns and talk of another interest-rate cut combined to push up stocks, sending the Dow Jones Industrial Average within 1% of a record... Major stock indexes have recouped almost all their summer losses on hopes that the Federal Reserve will do what it takes to prevent recession. At 12845.78 in August, the Dow industrials yesterday finished at 13878.15, up 99.50 points, or 0.72%. The Dow is up 11.4% this year, near its July 19 record of 14000.41.

General Motors Leads Dow Higher After Contract Agreement Is Reached - Washington Post 09/27/07

GM pact helps drive stocks - Los Angeles Times 09/27/07

Defense secretary's funding request boosts sector - Chicago Tribune 09/27/07

Strike's end puts investors to work - Chicago Tribune 09/27/07

Dollar Climbs Against Rivals, Bounces Off Latest Euro Low

Dan Molinski

The Wall Street Journal 09/27/07

The dollar rose modestly against its key rivals despite more weak U.S. economic data, as investors took some profits after the dollar hit another record low versus the euro in the Asian trading session... Late in New York, the euro was at \$1.4125, down from \$1.4147 late Tuesday, while the dollar was at 115.55 yen, up from 114.73 yen. The euro was at 163.22 yen, up from 162.31 yen. The pound was at \$2.0159 from \$2.0199. The dollar was at 1.1708 Swiss francs, up from 1.1659 francs.

Arcelor, Mittal To Complete Deal By November

Associated Press

The Wall Street Journal 09/27/07

The combination of steelmakers Mittal Steel Co. and Arcelor SA is expected to be completed in November.

Chevron to Buy Back Up to \$15 Billion in Stock

Kevin Kingsbury

The Wall Street Journal 09/27/07

Chevron Corp. announced a \$15 billion share-buyback plan after completing three \$5 billion repurchases since 2005... Chairman and Chief Executive Dave O'Reilly said, "We believe it is appropriate to continue to return cash to our stockholders through share repurchases."

Kazakh Oil Firm Draws Western Interest

Guy Chazan

The Wall Street Journal 09/27/07

One of Kazakhstan's largest private oil producers is drawing interest from Western investors and could attract bids of at least \$4 billion, people familiar with the matter said... But the company's murky ownership and the likelihood of a strong state role in any sale have given potential bidders pause, these people said, in another sign of the complications Western investors face as they scour the world for fresh reserves of oil and natural gas.

Opinion: In defense of lobbying

Ross K. Baker

USA Today 09/27/07

It might come as a surprise to most people that lobbying is a constitutionally protected activity under the hallowed First Amendment. After the Founding Fathers cast the cloak of protection over freedom of religion, the press and the right to peacefully assemble, they added a category that could not be infringed upon by the federal government: "to petition the government for a redress of grievances."

Labor and Work Issues

Readers weigh in

The Detroit News 09/27/07

Here's what some of detnews.com's readers had to say about the tentative GM-UAW deal: Does this mean GM will no longer push for national health care in America now that they have scammed the UAW and its workers? Now let discussion begin about competing with foreign competition. Our high salary scale for CEOs is off the charts compared to the competition... The UAW and the Detroit automakers will finally kill each other off. Their death will not affect us. We will simply place our new car order with a Chinese auto manufacturer and at a much lower cost.

Editorial: An Untrendy Strike

Washington Post 09/27/07

There was a time when a strike at General Motors could be a trendsetting event. The legendary 1936-37 "sit-down

strike" led to the emergence of the United Auto Workers as the dominant union in the auto industry. A 69-day strike in 1970 helped push the country into a recession. A wildcat walkout at Lordstown, Ohio, in 1972 was widely interpreted as a symptom of the baby boomers' workplace alienation... By contrast, the brief walkout by 73,000 UAW workers that ended yesterday was front-page news but in an anachronistic sort of way... Ford and Chrysler should enjoy commensurate savings if they sign similar deals as expected.

VW, Nissan and Renault Workers To End Strike In South Brazil

Rogério Jelmayer

Dow Jones 09/26/07

Workers at Volkswagen AG, Nissan Motor Co. and Renault SA auto plants in the southern state of Parana voted to end a four-day strike, a union spokesman said Wednesday... The Curitiba Metalworkers Union, representing some 5,000 workers at the three companies, said that workers accepted a 7.4% wage hike plus a one-time bonus worth 1,500 Brazilian reais (\$810)... The union was demanding an 8.5% pay rise plus a bonus of BRL2,000.

E-Commerce

Ford Offers Digital Radio

Associated Press

The Wall Street Journal 09/27/07

Ford Motor Co. said it plans to make HD digital radio available on nearly every 2008-model-year Ford, Lincoln and Mercury vehicle as a dealer-installed option, giving motorists improved reception and more radio content.

Update 1: Ford to offer digital radio on vehicles - Reuters News 09/26/07

Ford's adoption of HD Radio gives IBiquity a boost - Baltimore Business Journal 09/26/07

Ford Rolls Out Optional HD Digital Radio for 2008 Models - Edmunds.com 09/26/07

Sony Will Create Unit To Make LCD Panels

The Wall Street Journal 09/27/07

Sony Corp. said it will form a subsidiary to produce thin-film transistor, liquid-crystal-display panels for mobile devices. The unit will be formed by merging two existing joint ventures with Toyota Industries Corp., a subsidiary of Toyota Motor Corp.

Building the Virtual Car of Your Dreams

Elva Ramirez

The Wall Street Journal 09/27/07

The online car configurator might be the latest in guilty office-hours pleasures. Moving beyond the typical online pricing tools, nearly all auto makers host online configurators where potential customers can customize the new car of their dreams. It's also very easy to print or email your dream car specs to a dealer and see how much it would cost to make that car a reality in your driveway.

International Automotive News

Eco-friendly sales in the slow lane

John Reed

Financial Times 09/27/07

The field of low-emission cars has broadened considerably in the two years since the A2 failed, and overall sales of cleaner cars are indeed increasing. However, they still represent a sliver of total vehicle sales in Europe and the US.

BMW looks to the long term

Richard Milne

Financial Times 09/27/07

BMW, the German luxury carmaker, will today unveil its strategy for the next decade with new targets likely for sales, profitability and efficiency.

Michelin plantation an oasis in sea of poverty

Michael Bettencourt

The Globe and Mail (Canada) 09/27/07

It may have taken three planes, a bouncy bus ride and about 18 hours of travel time to get to Ituberá, Brazil, but it took only about two minutes of staring into the mouth of a thundering waterfall at Michelin's rubber plantation in the Atlantic rain forest to realize that this place was much more than a rubber factory.

Veloster concept: Hyundai's next-generation coupe?

Jez Spinks

The Age 09/27/07

A production version of Hyundai's Veloster concept could become the Korean car maker's third-generation coupe. The two-door concept makes its first Australian appearance at the 2007 Sydney motor show after debuting in April at the 2007 Seoul motor show.

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